Yes Sir. A conference of Chief Executives of Public Sector Undertakings and National Organisations of the Department of Mines was held on 17th May, 1984. At the meetings, Chief Executives of the Public Sector Undertakings and National Organisations made a presentation of the review of 1983-84 operations, the Action Plans of their individual enterprises/organisations for 1984-85, and the strategy for the next four years. The presentations, deliberations thereon and the decisions taken have been formulated as a document for reference relating to their production-cum-profitability plans for 1984-85 and subsequent four years. This document also serves as the basis for Monitoring and Review.

(c) No Sir. This Conference did not consider the production of steel, as this item pertains to the Department of Steel.

Brain drain from atomic power projects

1187. SHRI VITHALBHAI PATEL:
SHRI VISHVAJIT PRITHVIJIT SINGH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that brain drain of our engineers and scientists has affected our atomic power units;

(b) if so, how many scientists and engineers have gone abroad;

(c) what steps Government are taking to stop this brain-drain; and

(d) whether there is any danger of vital information being leaked out by this exodus?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, ATOMIC ENERGY, SPACE, ELECTRONICS AND OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL): (a) There has been resignation of scientific personnel and technical personnel from the PAE. The percentage of these resignation is however not considered job opportunities available to engineers ed job opportunities available to engineers and acientists outside the Government.

(b) Information is being collected.

(c) There has been constant endeavour on the part of Government to improve the service conditions of engineers and scientists in DAE.

(d) No, Sir.

Global tender floated by SAIL for purchase of coking coal

1188. SHRI NAND KISHORE BHATT: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that SAIL had floated a global tender in 1983 for the purchase of three lakhs tonnes of coking coal;

(b) if so, what are the names of the parties who had sent quotations along with their specifications to SAIL;

(c) whether an undue delay has taken place in awarding the tender, if so, what are the reasons therefore;

(d) what are the names of the parties who have been invited for negotiations:

(e) whether it is also a fact that the parties who had sent quotations along with quoted the lowet rates have not been invited for negotiations; and

(f) if so, what action Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI N. K. P. SALVE): (a) No, Sir. In 1983, SAIL did not issue any global tender for purchase of coking coal.

(b) to (f) In 1982, SAIL floated a global tender for import of 8 lakh tonnes of coking coal for delivery between October 1982 and June 1983 M/s Royal International Corporation, USA, did not quote against this tender; offers were received by SAIL from 48 tenderers.

During 1982, SAIL had also issue a Notice inviting applications for pre-qualification as long-term suppliers of coking coal. In response to this Notice, SAIL received offers from 96 parties. M/s Royal International Corporation submitted an application in November 1982 against this

Notice and an unsolicited priced offer in May, 1983. Neither of these applications entitled them to pre-qualification. The first application did not contain the full and complete specifications of the coal offered and the second offer, apart from being unsolicited, did not meet the technical parameters of the coal required by SAIL.

Technology of mining polymetallic nodules from the sea bed

1189. SHRI P. N. SUKUL:

DR. LOKESH CHANDRA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made in developing an indigenous technology of mining, dewatering, transporting and processing of polymetallic nodules from the sea bed; and

(b) whether the International See Bed Authority has accepted India's claim of mining polymetallic nodules at a site in the Indian Ocean which is about ten degrees south of the equator?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, ATOMIC ENERGY, SPACE, ELECTRONICS AND OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL): (a) India does not yet have full indigenous technuology for mining polymetallic nodules from the deep sea. This is a high technology area in which only a few developed countries have done extensive work. Research & Development in the mining technology, environmental safeguard and other related information concerning the mine site will be accelerated as soon as the Preparatory Commission of the International Sea Bed Authority allots the pioneer site to India. No major difficulties are envisaged in dewatering (drying), as the technology for this is fairly well established. We have not yet been able to work out the details of the transportation technology from the mining site to shore-based centres. For processing the nodules, a laboratory scale technology for the extraction of copper, nickel and cobalt from the nodules has already been developed and all the thret metals hays been extracted from the nodules. Further work is in progress and several laboratories are processing the nodules.

(b) No, Sir. The Preparatory Commission of the Sea Bed Authority will take a decision on the application filed by India for the allotment of a 'Pioneer Area' only after the Rules of Procedure for the registration of 'Pioneer Investors' and the allotment of Pioneer Area have been finalised. These are being actively discussed these days.

Janata type colour T.V.

1190. SHRI SHYAM SUNDAR MOHAPATRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether colour T.V. of janata type will be made available to people shortly; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT IN OF ELECTRONICS AND IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI M. V. SANJEEVI RAO): (a) and (b) The fiscal component of the "Measures to Further Accelerate the Rapid Development of Electronics" announced in Parliament on August 18, 1983 was basically directed at reducing the costs of electronic products manufactured in the country. As such, it also included various elements relating to TV Receivers. For example, the customs duty on imported components such as CTV tubes, integrated circuits, resistors, capacitors, etc. has been reduced from 158 per cent to 75 per cent, the customs duty on capital equipment initially needed for manufacture of electronics products, has been reduced from 35 per cent to 25 per cent the excise duty on CTV receivers has been reduced from 25 per cent + 5 per cent surcharge to 15 per cent, for Black & White Sets within a screen size below 51 cms., this has been reduced to 5 per cent. As a result of these reductions, some manufacturers have already advertised customer prices of CTV Sets in Delhi in the range of Rs. 5570 to 5800 which are the lowest in the country.